**OBJECTIVE:** Assist a client in processing a large amount of distributions from a terminating ESOP within days of selling the company.

**COMPANY SITUATION**

Crowe LLP is the 9th largest accounting firm in the U.S., with more than 4,500 employees in 44 offices around the country. Their ESOP Practice provides retirement plan consulting and administrative services to ESOP companies. Although Crowe offers distribution services to their ESOP clients, they are not set up to quickly handle large numbers of payouts.

When one of Crowe’s ESOP clients was acquired by another company, the deal gave the client only a few days after the transaction closed to start distributing the proceeds from the transaction. Crowe and the ESOP trustee needed a solution that could process a lot of distributions much more quickly than normal. If the distributions could not be offered quickly, it was possible the deal would have to be renegotiated, a time-consuming and costly process.

**THE PENCHECKS TRUST™ SOLUTION**

Fortunately, Peter Shuler, a partner in Crowe and head of the firm’s ESOP Practice, had experience using PenChecks Trust’s Premier Level distribution services with other clients.

This turnkey service includes participant outreach, processing of lump sum and rollover plan payments, administration of tax withholding, reporting and 1099-Rs, and resolution of uncashed plan disbursements.

Shuler expressed his confidence in PenChecks’ ability to compete all the distributions within the given deadline, and the client gave the go-ahead to proceed.

“We will handle distributions for our clients, but we are not set up to handle them in large amounts. When a client’s distributions get into the hundreds or thousands, we recommend they use PenChecks.”

“They specialize in taking a slow, cumbersome task and turning it into a highly efficient process that makes it easier for Crowe LLP and our clients.”
Working closely with a dedicated onboarding representative, Shuler spearheaded the process of making sure PenChecks received all the participant data and corresponding funding in a timely manner.

With more than 1,800 employees and close to $1 billion in assets involved in the distribution, PenChecks went onsite to the client’s two locations to assist and answer any questions the employees had about the process.

PenChecks used its highly efficient payment processing technology to mail and process all the benefit elections and complete the entire group of distributions within the required deadline.

Afterwards, PenChecks followed through with all the tax remittance and reporting requirements—so neither Crowe LLP nor their client would have to.

PenChecks offers a helpful and efficient end-to-end turnkey solution.

Everyone involved in or affected by the transaction was delighted with PenChecks’ fast, efficient distribution services. The ESOP transaction was able to proceed without delay.

Plan participants were happy to transfer their money to the new plan quickly. Shuler and his team were able to assist one of their best clients in completing a very important deal.

PenChecks Trust Company of America (PenChecks Trust) is a state-chartered, non-depository trust company and the largest independent provider of outsourced benefit distribution services and Default/Missing Participant IRAs in the country.

With 25 years in business, the PenChecks family of companies is an expert and industry-leading provider of unique and comprehensive solutions for a myriad of trust resolution issues.

Services include automated and branded solutions for benefit payment processing, uncashed / stale dated checks, Abandoned Plan/QTA services and Taxable Savings Accounts. Customers include financial institutions, third party administrators, plan advisors, and plan sponsors.